

**THE LAW OFFICES OF
DANIEL A. KAPLAN**
Daniel A. Kaplan (SBN 179517)
555 West Beech Street, Suite 500
San Diego, CA 92101
Tel: (619) 685-3988
Fax: (619) 684-3239
Email: dkaplan@danielkaplanlaw.com

PANAKOS LAW, APC
Aaron D. Sadock Esq. (SBN 282131)
Veronica E. McKnight, Esq. (SBN
306562)
555 West Beech Street, Suite 500
San Diego, California 92101
Telephone: (619) 800-0529
Email: asadock@panakoslaw.com
Email: bmcknight@panakoslaw.com

Atorneys for Defendant and Counter-Plaintiff GERARD DOUGLAS

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES DIVISION**

**CATALINA YACHTS, INC., a
California corporation,**

Case No. 2:25-cv-04090-SVW-RAO

Plaintiff,
v.

SHARON DAY, an individual;
GERARD DOUGLAS, an individual;
and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

GERARD DOUGLAS, an individual,

Counter-Plaintiff,

CATALINA YACHTS, INC., a California corporation; RUSSELL LANE BERNEY, as Trustee; JEAN C. BUTLER, as Trustee, MICHAEL REARDON, an individual; and ROES 1 through 5, as Trustees, inclusive.

Counter-Defendants.

**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF
GERARD DOUGLAS'S
OPPOSITION TO COUNTER-
DEFENDANTS CATALINA
YACHTS, INC.'S, RUSSELL LANE
BERNEY'S, AND JEAN C.
BUTLER'S MOTION TO DISMISS
GERARD DOUGLAS'S
COUNTERCLAIM**

Date: October 20, 2025

Time: 1:30 p.m.

District Judge: Hon. Stephen V.
Wilson

Action Filed: May 7, 2025

Trial Date: January 6, 2026

**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF GERARD DOUGLAS'S OPPOSITION
TO COUNTER-DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS GERARD DOUGLAS'S COUNTERCLAIM**

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

Defendant and Counter-Plaintiff Gerard Douglas (“Douglas”) by and through his attorneys of record, the Law Offices of Daniel A. Kaplan and Panakos Law, APC, respectfully submits the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Opposition to the Motion to Dismiss of Counter-Defendants Catalina Yachts, Inc. (“Catalina”), Russell Lane Berney (“Berney”), and Jean C. Butler (“Butler”) (collectively “Counter-Defendants”).

I. INTRODUCTION

Counter-Defendants' motion to dismiss the First Amended Counterclaim ("FACC") on the basis that the statute of limitations has expired as to all claims is premised on a basic misunderstanding of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8. It is fundamental that a plaintiff may plead in the alternative, as Douglas has done in the first and second causes of action for breach of contract. Douglas's first cause of action for breach of contract alleges his bonus vested seven and one-half years after the Bonus Compensation Agreement was executed and tolled. Douglas pleads in the alternative a second claim for breach of contract whereby the breach occurred by failing to pay Douglas the value of Catalina's assets sold to Counter-Defendant Michael Reardon in 2025 or one million dollars, whichever is greater, which is well within the four year statute of limitations. Movants' assertion that all claims are therefore subject to the statute of limitations is at odds with the permissive nature of Rule 8 to plead in the alternative.

The motion to dismiss also addresses Count 5 for Elder Financial Abuse under California Welfare & Institutions Code Section 15610.30 and 15657.6 (which Douglas has conceded is not viable). As to Count 6 for Fraudulent Transfer of Assets, movants incorrectly argue that Douglas cannot obtain a judgment for fraudulent transfer because it would constitute a double judgment which is simply wrong. As to Count 8 for Intentional Interference with Contract, the motion fails

1 because Berney is a complete stranger to the contract in question and Jean Butler
2 acted for her own benefit in her role as trustee rather than as an agent of Catalina.
3 The tenth Count for Unjust Enrichment can proceed as a standalone claim under
4 California law. Finally, The Court should decline to dismiss Count 11 for an
5 Accounting because the amount of Douglas's claim is unknown under the damage
6 scenario that his bonus is five percent of the value of Catalina. Thus the entirety of
7 Counter-Defendants' motion to dismiss is meritless and should be denied.

8 **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

9 Catalina hired Douglas in 1976 as an engineer. He had been employed more
10 than 25 years by November 2002. (FACC ¶¶ 20-22.) Catalina, Frank Butler, and
11 Jean Butler offered Douglas a Bonus Compensation Agreement by which he could
12 earn a bonus of five percent of the fair market value of Catalina as determined by an
13 independent appraiser, with a minimum of not less than \$1,000,000, if he remained
14 employed for a period of seven and one-half years following execution of the Bonus
15 Compensation Agreement (hereinafter "Vesting Period"). (Id. at ¶ 22.) On or about
16 November 18, 2002, Catalina, by and through its President Frank Butler, Frank
17 Butler individually, Jean Butler individually, and Douglas executed the Bonus
18 Compensation Agreement. (Id. at ¶ 23.)

19 Douglas continued his employment at Catalina based on Catalina's
20 representation that the Vested Bonus was not yet payable and under duress caused
21 by the threat of termination of his employment if he sought to enforce his
22 contractual rights. (Id. at ¶¶ 25, 27.) At various times, Frank Butler, in his capacity
23 as president of Catalina, reaffirmed its obligation to pay Douglas a bonus under the
24 Bonus Compensation Agreement. Based upon these representations, Defendant
25 continued his employment at Catalina. Defendant retired from Catalina on or about
26 January 15, 2021. Counter-Defendant Russell Berney (who serves as trustee for the
27 Butlers' various trusts) affirmed that the Butlers would honor their commitment

1 under the Bonus Compensation Agreement, including by phone on January 14,
2 2022. From time to time, Jean Butler also reaffirmed a commitment to pay the bonus
3 to Douglas, including by telephone on February 1, 2022. (Id. at ¶ 28.)

4 Douglas is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that on April 23,
5 2025, at the direction of Berney, Jean Butler and Roes 1-5, Catalina entered into an
6 Asset Purchase Agreement and accompanying agreements with Michael Reardon
7 whereby Reardon acquired all assets used in or useful to Catalina's operations and
8 assumed some liabilities of Catalina. (Id. at ¶ 29.) Douglas was not a party to the
9 Asset Purchase Agreement, did not provide consent to release Catalina from its
10 obligations under the Bonus Compensation Agreement, and did not enter into any
11 novation substituting Reardon as the sole obligor in place of Catalina and Jean C.
12 Butler. Accordingly Catalina and Jean C. Butler remain fully liable for their
13 obligations under the Bonus Compensation Agreement. Reardon is jointly and
14 severally liable to Douglas as the assumer of Catalina's liabilities. (Id. ¶ 30.)

15 Douglas is further informed and believes and on the basis alleges that the
16 purchase and sale was structured to avoid triggering the obligation to pay Douglas
17 the Vested Bonus by purporting to sell less than all of Catalina's assets and none of
18 its stock. (Id. at ¶ 31.) Catalina ultimately filed its lawsuit on May 7, 2025 seeking
19 declaratory relief that the bonuses are not owed.

20 **III. LEGAL STANDARD**

21 When reviewing a motion to dismiss under F.R.C.P. 12(b)(6), the court
22 "accept[s] as true all facts alleged in the complaint and construe[s] them in the
23 light most favorable" to the pleading party. *DaVinci Aircraft, Inc. v. United States*,
24 926 F.3d 1117, 1122 (9th Cir. 2019); see also *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 664
25 (2009) ("When there are well-pleaded factual allegations, a court should assume
26 their veracity and then determine whether they plausibly give rise to an entitlement
27 to relief."). A complaint need only "contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as

1 true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face’ ” and thereby survive a
2 motion to dismiss. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (quoting *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550
3 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). Dismissal is permitted only if “it appears beyond doubt that
4 the [counterclaimant] can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which would
5 entitle him to relief.” *DaVinci Aircraft*, 926 F.3d at 1122. As such, “[i]f there are
6 two alternative explanations, one advanced by [the responding party] and the other
7 advanced by [the pleading party], both of which are plausible, [the pleading
8 party's] complaint survives.” *Soo Park v. Thompson*, 851 F.3d 910, 918 (9th Cir.
9 2017). “In a motion to dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
10 12(b)(6), the Court must limit its review to the four corners of the operative
11 complaint, and may not consider facts presented in briefs or extrinsic evidence.”
12 *Butler v. Cnty. of Los Angeles*, 617 F. Supp. 2d 994, 999 (C.D. Cal. 2009).

13 **IV. ARGUMENT**

14 **A. Douglas’s First Claim for Breach of Contract is Tolled by Equitable
15 Estoppel.**

16 Douglas’s first claim for breach of contract alleges that Catalina breached
17 the Bonus Compensation Agreement by alleging that the bonus vested upon
18 Douglas’s continued employment with Catalina for seven and a half years following
19 execution of the Bonus Compensation Agreement, thereby earning the full amount
20 of the bonus due to him. The FACC alleges that Catalina, “has breached the Bonus
21 Compensation Agreement by failing to select an appraiser, have the appraiser
22 determine the amount of Douglas’s bonus based on Catalina’s fair market value and
23 paying Douglas a bonus of five percent (5%) of Catalina’s fair market value, or one
24 million dollars (\$1,000,000), whichever is greater.” (FACC ¶ 35, 38.) The FACC
25 further alleges that “Douglas continued his employment at Catalina based on
26 Catalina’s representation that the Vested Bonus was not yet payable and under
27 duress caused by the threat of termination of his employment if he sought to enforce

1 his contractual rights." (Id. at ¶ 27.) Furthermore, the Butlers reaffirmed their
2 promise to pay Douglas after his retirement, including by telephone on February 1,
3 2022. (Id. at ¶ 28.)

4 "When a motion to dismiss is based on the running of the statute of
5 limitations, it can be granted only if the assertions of the complaint, read with the
6 required liberality, would not permit the plaintiff to prove that the statute was tolled"
7 or that the claims were timely. *Jablon v. Dean Witter & Co.*, 614 F.2d 677, 682 (9th
8 Cir. 1980). Thus, to survive a motion to dismiss, plaintiffs "simply need to plead
9 facts demonstrating a potential factual dispute that could affect whether the defense
10 applies." *Rabin v. Google LLC*, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 54240, 2024 WL 1269313,
11 at (N.D. Cal. Mar. 26, 2024). "Only when the plaintiff pleads itself out of court—
12 that is, admits all the ingredients of an impenetrable defense—may a complaint that
13 otherwise states a claim be dismissed under Rule 12(b)(6)." *Durnford v.
14 MusclePharm Corp.*, 907 F.3d 595, 604 (9th Cir. 2018)." *A.B. v. Google LLC*, 737
15 F. Supp. 3d 869, 877-878 (2024).

16 The FACC alleges sufficient facts for the Court to decline to dismiss the first
17 cause of action on the basis that Catalina Yachts, Inc. should be equitably estopped
18 from asserting a statute of limitations defense in light of the threats that prevented
19 Douglas from pursuing his bonus compensation claim. Under California law,
20 equitable estoppel prevents a defendant from asserting the statute of limitations as
21 a defense when the defendant's conduct has induced the plaintiff to refrain from
22 filing suit within the applicable limitations period *Rustico v. Intuitive Surgical,
Inc.*, 993 F.3d 1085 (9th Cir. 2021), *Cordova v. 21st Century Ins. Co.*, 129 Cal.
23 App. 4th 89 (2005). Equitable estoppel "comes into play only after the limitations
24 period has run and addresses itself to the circumstances in which a party will be
25 estopped from asserting the statute of limitations as a defense to an admittedly
26 untimely action because his conduct has induced another into forbearing suit
27

1 within the applicable limitations period." *Id.* at 97.

2 The doctrine serves as "a remedial judicial doctrine employed to ensure
3 fairness, prevent injustice, and do equity." *Rustico v. Intuitive Surgical, Inc.*, supra
4 at 1096. Importantly, equitable estoppel "takes its life from the equitable principle
5 that no man will be permitted to profit from his own wrongdoing in a court of
6 justice." *Cordova v. 21st Century Ins. Co.*, supra at 106.

7 Under California law, there are four elements for equitable estoppel: (1) The
8 party to be estopped must know the facts; (2) he must intend that his conduct shall
9 be acted upon, or must so act that the party asserting the estoppel had the right to
10 believe that it was so intended; (3) the party asserting the estoppel must be ignorant
11 of the true state of facts; and (4) he must rely upon the conduct to his injury. See
12 *Leasequip, Inc. v. Dapeer*, 103 Cal.App.4th 394, 404 (2002).

13 Threats and intimidation by a defendant can be sufficient grounds for
14 equitable estoppel. See e.g., *Aldrich v. Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n*, 484
15 F.Supp.3d 779, 799-800 (N.D. Cal. 2020). Courts have found that "threats and
16 intimidation by a defendant can be sufficient to claim equitable estoppel under
17 state laws," including under California law where "threats of deportation by
18 defendant [were] sufficient for equitable estoppel." *Humphries v. Button*, US
19 District Court for the District of Nevada, Case No 2:21-cv-01412-ART-EJY, 2025
20 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 162472.

21 The doctrine of equitable estoppel focuses, "primarily on the actions taken
22 by the employer in preventing an employee from filing suit" and requires that "the
23 employee must point to some fraudulent concealment, some active conduct by the
24 employer above and beyond the wrongdoing upon which the claim is filed." 2
25 Labor & Employment in California § 15-7 WRONGFUL TERMINATION (2025).
26 Threats of job termination constitute precisely this type of active conduct that goes
27 beyond the underlying breach of the bonus agreement.

1 All four elements of equitable estoppel under California law are sufficiently
2 alleged in the FACC. First, Catalina and Frank Butler, its founder, knew the facts
3 regarding the bonus agreement and Douglas's position that he was entitled to
4 payment when he requested the bonus. Second, Catalina, via Butler, intended its
5 threatening conduct to be acted upon by explicitly telling Douglas he could lose his
6 job if he pursued the bonus claim. Third, Douglas was led to believe that the bonus
7 payment was not due, and therefore was, insofar as the doctrine requires, ignorant
8 of the true state of facts regarding his legal rights and Catalina's willingness to
9 honor the agreement. Fourth, Douglas relied on Catalina's threats to his injury by
10 refraining from pursuing his claim, even going so far as to retain counsel but then
11 dropping the demand due to Butler's threats.

12 Counter-Defendants' conduct was particularly egregious because it
13 combined a refusal to pay with active threats designed to prevent Douglas from
14 seeking legal recourse. This goes well beyond the mere breach of contract and
15 constitutes the type of "active conduct" that courts have found sufficient for
16 equitable estoppel.

17 Importantly, equitable estoppel remains available even in circumstances
18 where other doctrines might not apply. As California courts have explained,
19 equitable estoppel "is wholly independent of the limitations period itself" and "is
20 available even where the limitations statute at issue expressly precludes equitable
21 tolling." *Lantzy v. Centex Homes*, 31 Cal. 4th 363 (2003).

22 The FACC alleges sufficient facts to overcome the affirmative defense of the
23 expiration of the statute of limitations. Catalina's motion should be denied on this
24 basis. Furthermore, whether the Court finds this count is barred by the statute of
25 limitations, such a ruling has no bearing on the balance of Douglas's causes of
26 action that arise out of the asset sale that occurred in 2025 and/or operate from a
27 later breach as alleged in the second cause of action.

1 **B. Douglas Has Properly Plead An Alternative Claim for Breach of**
2 **Contract.**

3 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(d)(2) allows Douglas to plead alternative
4 statements of a claim. A party may set out two or more statements of a
5 claim or defense alternatively or hypothetically, either in a single count or defense
6 or in separate ones. If a party makes alternative statements, the pleading is
7 sufficient if any one of them is sufficient. Douglas pleads two breach of contract
8 claims depending on the timing of the breach, since the contract is subject to
9 interpretation. While the first breach of contract arises out of the failure to pay
10 about 7.5 years from the Bonus Agreement, the second claim for breach of contract
11 alleges that Catalina breached and continues to breach the Agreement by failing to
12 pay Douglas as bonus five percent (5 %) of the value of the assets of Catalina sold to
13 Reardon or one million dollars (\$1,000,000), whichever is greater. This claim clearly
14 survives any statute of limitations argument, since it is triggered from the sale of the
15 assets in 2025.

16 **C. Douglas Has Alleged a Claim for Fraudulent Transfer of Assets by**
17 **Counter-Defendants.**

18 Counter-Defendants argue that Douglas fails to state a particularized
19 showing for fraudulent transfer and that Douglas cannot seek a double recovery
20 arising out of the Bonus Compensation Agreement. Douglas sufficiently pleads the
21 elements for fraudulent transfer in his Counterclaim, including the “who”, “what,”
22 “when” and “how”. See *Swartz v. KPMG LLP*, 476 F.3d 756 (9th Cir. 2007).
23 Douglas alleges that while being indebted to Douglas and other creditors, “in April
24 or May 2025, at the direction of Berney, Jean Butler and Roes 1-5, Catalina
25 entered into a written purchase and sale agreement by which all operational assets
26 of Catalina associated with its core business of designing and manufacturing
27 yachts, except real estate, were sold to Michael Reardon and/or an entity associated

1 therewith.” (FACC ¶ 29, 65.) This establishes a claim for fraudulent transfer. To
2 the extent that all details were not alleged, “In such situations, plaintiffs cannot be
3 expected to have personal knowledge of the relevant facts.” *Neubronner v. Milken*,
4 6 F.3d 666, 672 (9th Cir. 1993).

5 Despite Cross-Defendants’ argument, *Renda v. Nevarez*, 223 Cal.App.4th
6 1231 (2014) does **not** stand for the proposition that a debtor cannot be named in a
7 fraudulent transfer claim. *Renda* concerns the availability of a money judgment
8 against the debtor for the transfer amount in addition to the underlying judgment.
9 It holds that a debtor for whose benefit the transfer is made may not be subject to a
10 monetary judgment for the amount transferred in addition to the existing
11 judgment/debt. *Renda* does not bar naming the debtor nor does it support dismissal
12 on that basis. See *Renda* at 1237–1238. Therefore, the motion should be denied as
13 to this count.

14 **D. The FACC States a Claim for Intentional Interference with Contract.**

15 Counter-Defendants contend that Douglas cannot bring a claim for
16 intentional interference with contract against Berney and Butler because they are
17 not strangers to the contract. This argument holds no weight as to Counter-
18 Defendant Russell Berney whatsoever, and ignores that Jean Butler allegedly acted
19 in the capacity as trustee in interfering with the contract rather than her individual
20 capacity by which she signed the Bonus Compensation Agreement.

21 Counter-Defendant Berney is a complete stranger to the Bonus
22 Compensation Agreement. He is alleged to have induced the structure of the asset
23 sale to Reardon in 2025 – some 23 years after the bonus agreement’s execution –
24 to avoid triggering payment of the bonus to Douglas. FACC ¶ 86. He is alleged to
25 have done so in his role as trustee of trusts holding shares of stock in Catalina, but
26 not as its attorney nor as an agent of the corporation. FACC ¶ 84. The FACC
27 makes no allegations that Berney was an officer or director of Catalina at the time

1 of the interference either.

2 Jean Butler, who did sign the Bonus Compensation Agreement, but was not
3 responsible for payment of the bonus unless certain unmet conditions occurred, is
4 alleged to have acted in her capacity as trustee of trusts holding stock in Catalina.
5 FACC ¶ 84. She is not alleged to have been acting in her personal capacity by
6 which she signed the agreement in 2002. In other words, Jean Butler interfered
7 with the contract to prevent Catalina from having to pay the bonus, not to avoid her
8 personal liability under the Bonus Compensation Agreement. Catalina improperly
9 seeks to fill in gaps by arguing Berney and Jean Butler are controlling
10 shareholders, but this is not alleged in the FACC. (See Mtn. p. 17:26-28).

11 Movants also argue that Berney is alleged to have been the attorney for
12 Catalina. The complaint does not allege that Berney was specifically acting in his
13 role as attorney for Catalina, and in fact, disavows that he was acting in his
14 capacity as a member of the State Bar of California. See FACC ¶ 18.

15 California courts have recognized that noncontracting parties with an
16 economic or social interest in the contractual relationship may still be liable for
17 intentional interference. For instance, in *Caliber Paving Co., Inc. v. Rexford*
18 *Industrial Realty & Management, Inc.*, the court emphasized that a contractual
19 relationship is no less disrupted when the noncontracting party claims a social or
20 economic interest in the relationship. The tort of intentional interference is
21 designed to protect the integrity of established contractual relationships from
22 interference by third parties, regardless of their interest in the contract. *Caliber*
23 *Paving Co., Inc. v. Rexford Industrial Realty & Management, Inc.*, 54 Cal.App.5th
24 175 (2020).

25 Movants argue, however, that they are agents of the corporation and thus not
26 susceptible to a claim for interference. They rely primarily upon *Mintz v. Blue*
27 *Cross of California*, however, their argument fails because they improperly

1 presume that they occupy an analogous role to Blue Cross which acted as claims
2 administrator on behalf of CalPERS. Blue Cross was not a stranger to contract as it
3 was specifically named as CalPERS's agent in a document comprising part of the
4 insurance agreement. The *Mintz* court took pains to point out this contractual
5 relationship in its opinion: "Judge David Mintz was a member of PERS Choice, a
6 health insurance plan issued and funded by CalPERS (the California Public
7 Employees' Retirement System). The plan's "Evidence of Coverage" shows that
8 PERS Choice 'is a self-funded health plan established and administered by
9 CalPERS (the plan administrator and insurer) through contracts with third-party
10 administrators: Blue Cross of California and Medco.'" *Mintz v. Blue Cross of
11 California* (2009) 172 Cal.App.4th 1594, 1598–1599. Thus, not only was Blue
12 Cross not a stranger to the contract, it was acting solely as an agent of CalPERS.
13 *Id.* at 1604.

14 In contrast Berney and Butler are alleged to have been trustees of trusts that
15 held the stock in Catalina. Berney especially is not alleged to have any connection
16 to the Bonus Compensation Agreement. However, even assuming arguendo that
17 the role of trustee of trusts holding Catalina stock qualifies Berney and Butler as
18 the corporation's shareholders, shareholders in a corporation are not considered
19 agents of the corporation. Instead, they are the beneficial owners of the corporate
20 property, and the corporation acts as their agency, holding the property for their
21 benefit and in trust for them. This principle was articulated in the case of *Prang v.
22 Los Angeles County Assessment Appeals Bd.*, where the court clarified the
23 relationship between shareholders and the corporation. *Prang v. Los Angeles
24 County Assessment Appeals Bd.*, 15 Cal.5th 1152 (2024). Thus, the argument that
25 they were shareholders does not support the assertion that as corporate agents they
26 could not have interfered with Catalina's Bonus Compensation Agreement.

27 The allegations in the FACC suffice. Rather than acting as corporate agents,
28

1 Berney and Jean Butler are alleged to have known of the Bonus Compensation
2 Agreement in their role as trustees (FACC ¶ 84), to have intentionally induced or
3 caused Catalina to breach that agreement (FACC ¶ 85) and that they did so by
4 structuring the asset sale transaction in a manner designed to avoid payment to
5 Douglas. (FACC ¶ 86).

6 Even if the current allegations fall short, the FACC can be amended to allege
7 that Jean Butler acted for her own personal interest in interfering with the Bonus
8 Compensation Agreement. Such an allegation suffices at the pleading stage to
9 allege that an agent is liable for inducement for not acting legitimately within the
10 scope of her duties but rather using her position improperly for personal gain. See
11 *Mroz v. Hoaloha Na Eha, Inc.*, 410 F.Supp.2d 919, 937-938 (2005).

12 In sum, the FACC contains a short and plain statement of the claim for
13 interference with contractual relations which suffices to avoid dismissal as to
14 Berney. To the extent that additional allegations are required to establish that
15 Butler acted in her capacity as trustee for personal gain, the FACC can be amended
16 to state such a claim.

17 **E. The FACC Alleges Unjust Enrichment which can Proceed as a Stand-
18 Alone Cause of Action.**

19 Counter-Defendants contend that California does not recognize an
20 independent cause of action for unjust enrichment. However, when a plaintiff
21 alleges unjust enrichment, courts in California may interpret the claim as a quasi-
22 contract claim seeking restitution. This allows plaintiffs to pursue remedies for
23 situations where a defendant has been unjustly enriched, even though the claim is
24 not formally labeled as unjust enrichment. *Katz-Lacabe v. Oracle America, Inc.*,
25 668 F.Supp.3d 928 (2023). “To allege unjust enrichment as an independent cause
26 of action, a plaintiff must show that the defendant received and unjustly retained a
27 benefit at the plaintiff’s expense.” *ESG Cap. Partners, LP v. Stratos*, 828 F.3d

1 1023, 1038 (9th Cir. 2016). Therefore, this claim should survive the motion to
2 dismiss.

3 **F. Douglas Properly Brings a Claim for Accounting.**

4 An accounting is necessary to determine the amount due, since, “[t]he
5 amount of money due from Catalina to Douglas is unknown to Douglas and cannot
6 be ascertained without an accounting of the fair market value of Catalina or
7 alternatively the price of the sale of Catalina’s assets.” FACC ¶ 98. The Court in
8 *Teselle v. McLoughlin* explained that accounting is not subject to a motion for
9 summary judgment:

10 An accounting is a “species of disclosure, predicated upon the
11 plaintiff’s legal inability to determine how much money, if any, is
12 due.” (1A Corpus Juris Secundum, *supra*, Accounting, § 6, pp. 7–8,
13 fn. omitted.) Thus, the purpose of the accounting is, in part, to
14 discover what, if any, sums are owed to the plaintiff, and an
15 accounting may be used as a discovery device. (1A Corpus Juris
16 Secundum, *supra*, Accounting, § 26, p. 26.) An action for accounting
17 is not amenable to a motion for summary judgment or summary
adjudication upon a showing that plaintiff does not possess and cannot
reasonably obtain the evidence needed to compel the accounting,
because the very purpose of the accounting is to obtain such evidence.

18 *Teselle v. McLoughlin*, 173 Cal. App. 4th 156, 180 (2009).

19 **G. Amendment Should Be Permitted as Necessary.**

20 In the event the Court determines that the allegations have not established
21 the sufficient particularity for its claims, leave to amend should be granted for
22 Douglas to cure the deficiencies. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2). Absent “undue
23 prejudice”, undue delay, bad faith or dilatory motive,” “repeated failure to cure
24 deficiencies by amendments previously allowed,” or “futility of amendment,” there
25 is “a presumption …in favor of granting leave to amend.” *Eminence Cap., LLC v.*
26 *Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d. 1048, 1052 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting *Foman v. Davis*, 371
27 U.S. 178, 182 (1962)). Any deficiency to be amended is appropriate. No prejudice

1 is caused to Counter-Defendants, who are very aware and on notice of Douglas's
2 claims against them.

3 **V. CONCLUSION**

4 For the foregoing reasons, Counter-Defendants' motion to dismiss must be
5 denied or granted only with leave to amend.

6

7 Dated: September 29, 2025 **LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL A. KAPLAN**

8

9 By: */s/ Daniel A. Kaplan*
10 Daniel A. Kaplan
11 Attorneys for Defendant and
12 Counter-Plaintiff
13 GERARD DOUGLAS

14

15 Dated: September 29, 2025 **PANAKOS LAW, APC**

16

17 By: */s/ Veronica E. McKnight*
18 Veronica E. McKnight
19 Attorneys for Defendant and
20 Counter-Plaintiff
21 GERARD DOUGLAS

22

23

24

25

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27

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The undersigned, counsel of record for Gerard Douglas, certifies that this brief contains 4,250 words, which:

x complies with the word limit of L.R. 11-6.1.

_ complies with the word limit set by court order dated _____.

Dated: September 29, 2025 **LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL A. KAPLAN**

By: /s/ Daniel A. Kaplan
Daniel A. Kaplan
Attorneys for Defendant and
Counter-Plaintiff
GERARD DOUGLAS

Dated: September 29, 2025 PANAKOS LAW, APC

By: /s/ Veronica E. McKnight
Veronica E. McKnight
Attorneys for Defendant and
Counter-Plaintiff
GERARD DOUGLAS